

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at The Memorial Hall, The Street, Frittenden on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present were: Cllr A Staples (Chairman)  
Cllr J Tuke  
Cllr R Vernon  
Cllr L Gosbee

In attendance: Mrs E Nightingale (Clerk) & 1 member of the public

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

A resident reported that there was an unpleasant odour coming from the digester at the Fridays site. It was most pungent on still days, particularly when it was frosty. The smell was difficult to identify but it caused the resident to have a dry throat after spending the day working in their garden. Another resident was pursuing the matter with the relevant authorities. There were also concerns around the light pollution caused by lighting at the site.

Cllr Staples thanked the resident for bringing the matter to the Council's attention. He had spoken to those living close to the Fridays site in the past and they had not reported any issues with smell. However, it was likely that the topology funnelled and smells further down the valley so that the worst effected residents were actually further away from the site.

The resident also stated their support for planning application 23/03033/FULL, which they felt set out a very strong argument for eco properties of the type proposed. They will be submitting comments to the TWBC planning portal in support of the application.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Viviers, Cllr Murray, Cllr Lawrence, Cllr Holden (County), Cllr A Fairweather (Borough)

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct Part 2)**

None

### **3. BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

None

### **4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** (1 abstention) that the Minutes from the Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 are a true and accurate record of that meeting. That being so, the Chairman signed the said Minutes.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

#### Satins Hill Hedges

One of the hedges has now been cut back, but the other two are yet to be cut.

*Broken Manhole Cover*

The broken manhole cover on the Headcorn Road is yet to be replaced. Cllr Gosbee will continue to press for this to be done as soon as possible as it is a hazard to road users, particularly cyclists and motorcyclists.

*Blocked land drains*

Cllr Vernon reported that the land drains by Sunnyside and The Orchards were yet to be cleared. This meant that the area became entirely flooded during the recent heavy rain. Surface water is currently draining long the road and into a foul water sewer via a broken sewer lid. Cllr Vernon is concerned that, if we were to have a cold snap, the surface water would freeze making the road extremely dangerous. Cllr Gosbee will follow this up with KCC.

*Education in the Weald*

Cllr Staples attended a Zoom meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, but was disappointed to find that only two other Parish Chairmen attended.

*Dig Dog Lane Hedge*

The hedge has now been cut. Cllr Staples thanked Cllr Gosbee for arranging this.

*Storage Container/Salt Bags*

The storage container is now in place and the salt bags have been delivered.

*Budget*

Cllr Staples noted that the tax base in Frittenden Parish had grown by 2%. That meant that the continued freeze on increases to the precept represented a small tax cut for residents.

## 6. PARISH CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

Cllr Staples was unable to attend in person due to illness and he was unable to log in via Zoom because no link had been provided.

## 7. FRITTENDEN POST OFFICE

The Memorial Hall Committee asked if the Parish Council would consider funding the outreach service provided by the Post Office. Previously, the Post Office had paid the Hall a rent of £480 per year to use its facilities (being 48 weeks at £10 per week), but it had indicated that it was no longer willing to do so. If the Hall was not able to provide the relevant facilities at no cost to the Post Office, the service could no longer continue and Frittenden would lose its post office. It cost the Hall both in energy costs and lost hire charges to host the Post Office and it therefore asked whether the Parish Council might contribute to that cost to allow the Post Office service to continue.

The Council considered that the Post Office was a valuable service for the community which should continue if at all possible. However, concern was expressed about how well used the service was and the number of times the Post Office did not show up or failed to put its sign outside so that residents could not be sure whether it would be open or not. That uncertainty was likely to feed into any decline in the number of people using the service.

It was proposed by Cllr Staples, seconded by Cllr Vernon, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay to the Memorial Hall £120, being 12 weeks rent at £10 per week, to cover the first quarter of 2024. During that time, the footfall and number of occasions the service was cancelled would be monitored. The Council would then use that information to determine whether to continue funding it beyond the end of March 2024.

## 8. KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024

Councillors were asked to consider nominations for discussion at the next Council Meeting.

## 9. SPEEDWATCH

Cllr Staples reported that 4 sessions had taken place. There were 17 offenders out of 186 vehicles, with 5 of those offenders receiving letters from Kent Police. None of the offenders were travelling at more than 45mph.

## 10. PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS

Cllrs Gosbee is carrying out inspections and Cllr Lawrence is dealing with the maintenance issues raised in the Annual Inspection. As Cllr Lawrence was absent due to illness, this item would be discussed further at the next Council Meeting.

Cllr Gosbee was pleased to note that we were not getting through as many dog poo bags as in the past and so it appeared that this facility was now being used more considerably.

## 11. ROAD REPORT

Cllr Gosbee noted that Bettenham Bridge was yet to be repaired but that new bricks had now been laid on Buckhurst Bridge.

Cllr Gosbee noted that two vehicles had ended up in the ditch by Brookwood Corner when it was icy. There used to be a salt bin there but it had been stolen and KCC would not replace it. Cllr Gosbee will try again and, if he had no luck, he felt that the Council should consider buying a bulk bag of salt to be left at the side of the road in lieu of a salt bin. This was not ideal as the salt would get damp.

Cllr Gosbee has again asked for white lines to be painted along the edges of Cranbrook but KCC have refused, saying that this work is only carried out during summer months.

The fly tipping that blocked both Park Wood Lane and Sand Lane has been cleared. There is more fly tipping on Bettenham Lane which has been reported.

Cllr Vernon noted that articulated lorries were using Sand Lane and Biddenden Road to get to the A262/A274, presumably in order to avoid Bettenham Bridge. This was not a suitable route, not least because it will cause Buckhurst Bridge to be damaged yet again. The Clerk was instructed to write to Pure Foods again to request that they provide all drivers coming to their site with details of the appropriate route. This is what CWP Fencing does and it appears to be effective.

## 12. PLANNING

### New Applications

23/03033/FULL	Little Manor, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Erection of single-storey dwelling including a ground source heat pump and integrated solar panels <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Tuke</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL (1 abstention)</b>
23/03039/SUB	Buckhurst Farm, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Submission of Details in relation to Condition 4 - (Boundaries & Landscape) of 20/03360/FULL

	<b>NOTED – This submission had already been approved by the date of the Council Meeting</b>
23/03058/SUB	Submission of Details in relation to Condition 3 – (Materials); Condition 5 – (Ecological Enhancement); Condition 6 – (Foul Sewage); Condition 8 – (Contamination); Condition 10 – (Energy Efficiency) of 22/02113/FULL <b>NOTED</b>
23/02973/FULL	Peach Tree Cottage, Headcorn Road, Frittenden Erection of 6ft closeboard fence at front of property from edge of shared drive with Jubilee Cottage to boundary with Hepplewhite <b>Proposed by Cllr Vernon, Seconded by Cllr Gosbee</b> <b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND REFUSAL on grounds that: the proposed fence will have a negative visual impact on the street scene and that it is out of character with the surroundings. The Council believed that any privacy issues could be resolved by way of a denser/higher hedge</b>
23/03269/AGRIC	Haffenden Farm, Bubhurst Lane, Frittenden Prior Notification of agricultural or forestry development – Hay and machinery barn <b>NOTED</b>

### Outcome of Previous applications

23/01109/FULL	Pound Hill Field, Biddenden Road, Frittenden Retention of a timber shed/outbuilding for use in connection with the land <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>
23/02020/FULL	1 The Twins, Staplehurst Road, Frittenden Proposed extension to Bar A (Approved under planning reference 23/00267/FULL) <b>PERMISSION GRANTED</b>

### Planning appeals

- APP/M2270/W/23/3332797 – Appeal against refusal of application 23/02102/FULL – The Hatchin Tan, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden. Proposal: Stationing of one mobile home, one touring caravan and a utility room for a gypsy family. – The Council had nothing further to add to the comments submitted to TWBC in response to application 23/02102/FULL. It was, however, noted that work had already been commenced on site, notwithstanding permission had not been granted by TWBC.

### 13. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

- Inconsiderate parking at junction of Mill Lane/The Street – A member of the public had notified the Clerk about a disturbing incident in which emergency services (ambulance and fire engine) had great difficulties turning into Mill Lane to attend a medical emergency due to the vehicles parked on the junction. This was a stark reminder that parking on the junction was not only inconsiderate but also placed road users and residents more widely at risk.

The Clerk was instructed to raise this with KCC via her contact, Michelle Norris, and to add the placing of double yellow lines around the junction as an item on The Parish Council's Highway Improvement Plan that had been submitted to KCC.

The Clerk was also instructed to raise the above incident with Kent Police and ask that the local PCSO be tasked with monitoring parking at the junction and taking appropriate action should the highway be obstructed by parked vehicles. In the meantime, the Council would review the previous measures taken to try to address this problem, to include the correspondence sent to neighbouring properties to see whether any such action could be repeated.

If the relevant correspondent was content for details of the incident to be shared, a Councillor would write a piece for the Parish Magazine/Facebook page to draw attention to consequences on inconsiderate parking at this junction.

#### 14. FINANCE

- It was proposed by Cllr Vernon, seconded by Cllr Tuke, and **RESOLVED** by all members present to pay the accounts as follows:

FRITTENDEN PAYMENTS – December 2023					
Cheque Number	GROSS	VAT	NET	SUPPLIER	DETAILS
BACS	£17.00	Nil	£17.00	Frittenden Memorial Hall	Room Hire – Meeting Room (1 x session & winter surcharge)
BACS	£213.00	£35.50	£177.50	Kent Grassland Services	Grounds Maintenance – November
BACS	£50.40	£8.40	£42.00	Urbaser Ltd	Street Cleansing – November
BACS	£60.83	Nil	£60.83	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Expenses - December
BACS	£365.95	Nil	£365.95	Mrs E Nightingale	Clerk's Salary – December + back pay
BACS	£243.60	Nil	£243.60	HMRC	PAYE
BACS	£240.00	Nil	£240.00	Bell & Jorrocks	Tent Team lunch
BACS	£125.00	Nil	£125.00	Air Ambulance Kent Surry Sussex	S137 Donation
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Victim Support	S137 Donation
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	TW CAB	S137 Donation
BACS	£350.00	Nil	£350.00	FPCC	S137 Donation
BACS	£100.00	Nil	£100.00	Heart of Kent Hospice	S137 Donation
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Samaritans	S137 Donation
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Relate	S137 Donation
BACS	£100.00	Nil	£100.00	Hospice in the Weald	S137 Donation
BACS	£100.00	Nil	£100.00	Frittenden Preschool	S137 Donation
BACS	£100.00	Nil	£100.00	Frittenden School	S137 Donation
BACS	£100.00	Nil	£100.00	Hawkhurst Community LoF – Cottage Hospital	S137 Donation
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Royal British Legion	S137 Donation
BACS	£50.00	Nil	£50.00	Snowfields Academy Farm	S137 Donation
DD	£11.99	£2.00	£9.99	Hugo Fox	Website Hosting fee
DD	£85.78	£4.08	£81.70	Npower	Streetlighting Energy – November

<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,563.55</b>	<b>£49.98</b>	<b>£2,531.57</b>		
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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Chairman's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_